



# Dharmashastra National Law University, Jabalpur (DNLU)



## “CENTRE FOR STUDIES IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INVESTMENT LAW (CITIL)”

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### 1. BACKGROUND

The Centre for ‘Studies in International Trade and Investment Laws’ is a research and learning centre at DNLU, Jabalpur. The centre aims to bring together the legal academics, professionals, students, researchers etc., with an objective of the dissemination of knowledge and encouraging research in the various realms of International Trade Law and International Investment Laws. It must be mentioned here that, the subjects of International Trade and International Investment Laws are offered usually as Optional or Elective Courses in Law schools. National Law Universities have always been at the cusp of dissemination of knowledge not only in traditional compulsory law courses but also have tried to expose the students to various other fields of law through various activities and events.

This Centre would be one of such initiatives of a blooming National Law University to expose the interested students, scholars and academics to this intricate field of law which has interconnected horizons with both domestic law and International Law. Secondly, this is an area which also cuts across disciplines like Political Science and International Political and Economic Relations. Thirdly, there are not many universities in India which have a dedicated



Research Centre for these areas of International and National significance. Hence, it would be an honest endeavour for the purpose of developing a medium through which various issues in International economic relations can be discussed, debated, deliberated and appreciated.

## **2. VISION & MISSION**

To Establish and Develop a Centre of Research and Learning in the area of International Trade and International Investment Laws which could also create an impact in policy making at National Level with the inclusion of all stakeholders.

## **3. AREAS OF VARIOUS ACTIVITIES/PROGRAMMES/EVENTS**

### **A. Research and Dissemination through Research Projects/ Publications/ Newsletters etc.**

- ❖ The Centre seeks to undertake various Research projects which are relevant in the current times and which could fill the void in the grey areas of International Trade and Investment Laws.
- ❖ In addition to this, for the purpose of inculcating and appreciating scholarly work in this area, the Centre also seeks to publish Peer-Reviewed Journals and Newsletters for the purpose of dissemination of knowledge and awareness about various developments.

### **B. Research Sessions/Panel Discussions by Experts in the area of International Trade and Investment Laws**

- ❖ The Centre seeks to invite many reputed professionals, academics and research experts who have been working in this area and have contributed a lot towards the development of its horizons. This would help the stakeholders to be involved in a consultative and informative process of further research and development activities.

### **C. Policy papers/Policy briefs/Debates and Discussions on various pertinent issues in the area.**

- ❖ A very important medium of effective research and learning process is through Policy discussions and debates on various issues which need attention. The Centre seeks to bring together various stakeholders for the same.



#### **D. Academic and Research collaborations with various Government and Non-Government organisations**

- ❖ Many organisations in the Government and Private Sector including Research Centres in other Institutes and Universities of excellence are undertaking excellent research work in the area of International Trade and Investment laws. The Centre seeks to collaborate with them for the purpose of inclusive research and development.

#### **E. Certificate Courses for students and research scholars.**

- ❖ In order to also equip students with updated and developing horizons of this field, the Centre would also plan to conduct various certificate courses and capacity building programmes.

#### **F. Conferences, Seminars, Trade Labs, Symposiums etc. (State Level/National Level/International Level)**

- ❖ To foster the process of consultative dissemination of Knowledge, research and development, it is imperative that various Conferences, Seminars, Trade Labs and Symposiums at State/National and International Level are conducted. The Centre also seeks to undertake this activity.

#### **G. Capacity Building and Training Programmes for Customs Officials etc.**

As a part of Research and Development activity, the Centre, with the help of various Experts, would also venture into conducting training and capacity building programmes for various Stakeholders.

### **4. TARGET GROUP**

The Research Centre would cater to different stakeholders in different projects/tasks including but not limiting to, students, research scholars, professionals, Government Officials, Non-Governmental organisations, Industrial Personnel etc.

### **5. BROAD AND CROSS CUTTING RESEARCH AREAS OF LAW**

- ❖ International Trade Law and International Investment Laws



- ❖ Intellectual Property in International Trade
- ❖ International Investment Laws and National Policy Making
- ❖ International Economic Law
- ❖ Private International Trade Law
- ❖ Dispute Settlement in the field of International Trade Law and Investment Laws
- ❖ Public Law and its intersection with International Trade Law
- ❖ International Contract Law

## **6. INTENDED OUTCOMES OF THE RESEARCH CENTRE**

- ❖ Dissemination of Knowledge and Research Activities
- ❖ Impact on Policy-making at National Level
- ❖ Stakeholders' Consultation in the Policy discussions
- ❖ Participation of Students and Research Scholars in Research Projects/Publications/ etc.
- ❖ Fruitful collaborations with Various Organisations for an Inclusive approach towards Research and Academia in this area.
- ❖ Empowering DNLU, Jabalpur as Centre of Excellence in Research and Academia.

## **7. ABOUT THE DIRECTOR, CITIL**

Mr. Utkarsh K. Mishra, Assistant Professor of Law at DNLU is the Director of the Research Centre. Utkarsh K. Mishra has been working as Assistant Professor of Law at DNLU, Jabalpur since its inception in 2018. He has recently also worked as Assistant Registrar (Research) at the Centre for Research and Planning (Secretariat of Chief Justice of India), Supreme Court of India, on deputation from DNLU in the session 2021-22. During his term at the Supreme Court of India, he executed many research projects and assignments. He is an alumnus of NLU, Odisha from where he completed B. A. (Economics), LL. B (Hons.). He pursued masters in Law (LL. M) from National Law University, Jodhpur with specialization in International Trade and International Investment Laws, and is a recipient of Nani A. Palkhivala Memorial Gold Medal and Milon Kumar Banerjee Gold Medal for academic excellence in the postgraduate studies. He has qualified UGC NET (Law) and is currently pursuing his doctoral studies (Ph. D) from NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad in the realm of International Trade Laws. Prior to joining DNLU, Utkarsh has worked as Teaching Associate (Law) at HPNLU, Shimla, and taught both UG and PG courses. He also worked at the Centre for International Trade,



Environment and Economics (CUTS, International, Jaipur) as Research Associate (Law) and has worked on many assignments for the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India. He has many research publications, articles, and book chapters to his credit. His areas of Research and Teaching interests include Contract Law, International Trade Law, Legal Theory, International Investment Laws, Critical Legal Studies, Public Policy, Comparative Judicial Reforms, Legal Methods, Private International Law, and Critical Contract Law.

## **8. THE ADVISORY BOARD (2022-23)**

### **1. PROFESSOR BRYAN MERCURIO**

Bryan Mercurio is the *Simon F.S. Li Professor of Law at the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK)*, having served as Associate Dean (Research) from 2010-14 and again from 2017-19. Professor Mercurio specialises in international economic law (IEL), with particular expertise in the intersection between trade law and intellectual property rights, free trade agreements, trade in services, dispute settlement and increasingly international investment law. Professor Mercurio is co-author of one of the most widely used textbooks on WTO law (Hart Publishing, 2018, 3rd ed) and co-editor of the leading collection on bilateral and regional trade agreements (Cambridge University Press, 2nd ed, 2016). His most recent monograph explores the international and domestic framework for pharmaceutical patent law and policy (Cambridge University Press, 2018). His next monograph focuses on the legality of capital controls under the various strands of IEL (Cambridge University Press, 2021/22). Professor Mercurio currently holds three competitive grants, namely a grant from the Hong Kong General Research Fund entitled ‘When Regimes Clash on Capital Controls: Managing the Conflicting Norms and Standards of the IMF, WTO and International Investment Agreements’, a grant from the Hong Kong Policy Innovation and Co-ordination Office Public Policy Research Funding Scheme entitled, ‘Regulating Cross-Border Data: A Public Policy Framework for Hong Kong’ and a grant from the Humanities and Social Sciences Prestigious Fellowship Scheme entitled ‘Reshaping Global Trade: The Impact and Effects of the US-China Trade War’. He is also an active participant in a number of associations and networks, including the European Commission funded Jean Monnet Network in Trade and Investment in Services Associates (TIISA) and the ISDS Academic Forum. He was a member of the founding committee and served on the inaugural Executive Board of the Society of International Economic Law (SIEL),



a founding member of the SIEL Intellectual Property Law Network, a founding member of the Asian International Economic Law Network and is a Member for Hong Kong in the Asian WTO Research Network. In 2010 he authored the case for the ELSA WTO Moot Court Competition and from 2013-2016 served as a member of the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development/World Economic Forum E15 Expert Working Group on Trade and Innovation.

## **2. PROFESSOR SHEELA RAI**

Dr. Sheela Rai has done her LL.B. from DDU Gorakhpur University and LL.M. and Ph.D. from National Law School of India University Bangalore. Before joining NLUO she has worked as Associate Professor in HNLU Raipur, as lecturer in WBNUJS and as Assistant Professor in Amity Law School, Amity University Rajasthan. She has published three books, Recognition and Regulation of Antidumping Measures under GATT/WTO (Eastern Book Company), Recognition and Regulation of Safeguard Measures (Routledge, London and New York) and Antidumping Measures: Policy Law and Practice in India (Partridge). She has also published articles and Paper in various reputed Indian and International journals and presented papers in national and international conferences in India and abroad.

## **3. DR. PRABHASH RANJAN**

Dr. Prabhash is working as an Assistant Professor of law at the South Asian University, New Delhi, India. He was awarded PhD by King's College London on 1 January 2013, where he studied on a King's College London School of Law Doctoral Scholarship. He studied at School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) and University College London (UCL) for LL.M, as a British Chevening scholar; and passed with a distinction in 2007. Prabhash also holds degrees in Economics and Law from University of Delhi. Prabhash has been a Visiting Fellow at the Lauterpacht Centre for International Law, Cambridge University; Visiting scholar at Brookings India; Associate Professor at National Law University, Jodhpur; Assistant Professor at National University of Juridical Sciences (NUJS), Kolkata; Visiting Scholar at University of Sydney; Research Assistant at University College London; Research Consultant to United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); Visiting Faculty at Indian Law Institute, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade and TERI University; and Consultant to Oxfam Great Britain in India. He teaches and publishes in the area of international investment law and world trade law. Prabhash



has published in leading international refereed journals including George Washington International Law Review, ICSID Review, Northwestern Journal of International Law and Business, Journal of World Trade, Journal of International Arbitration, Journal of World Intellectual Property, Asian Journal of International Law, Cambridge International Law Journal, Australian Journal of Asian Law, Asian Journal of Comparative Law, Economic and Political Weekly and also in edited books published by international publishers like Oxford University Press, Brill, Springer, Edward Elgar, Hart and Routledge.

#### **4. DR. SURENDAR SINGH**

He is the former Senior Deputy Director at Engineering and Export Promotion Council of India, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India; Accomplished Government Affairs, International Trade Expert with Ph. D and 13+ years of experience working on international trade policy, public policy, strategic policy, trade and stakeholder affairs; Seasoned trade expert and trade-policy professional for the EEPC India with experience in project execution, policy formulation, in different areas of international trade and economics; Work closely with Department of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Steel, Ministry of MSME, DGFT, DGTR and Department of Heavy Industries; Actively participated in Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement on policy matters.; Leverages extensive expertise in managing collaborations and relationships with key stakeholders, government officials, policy leaders, agencies, advocacy groups, and leaders of business and industry India and different states.

#### **5. PROF. AAKANKSHA KUMAR**

Prof. Aakanksha Kumar is an Associate Professor at JGLS, having most recently served as full-time Assistant Professor at NALSAR Hyderabad between July 2019-June 2020. She administered the mandatory courses on Constitutional Law-II and Legal Methods as well as taught elective courses on Comparative Celebrity Laws and Law of IPR in International Trade, during her stint at NALSAR. She has previously also served as Assistant Professor at the Amity University Chhattisgarh from March 2018-Feb 2019 and at the National Law University, Jodhpur from July 2014 till May 2017. At NLUJ she headed the Centre for Advanced Research and Training in Arbitration Law (CARTAL) and handled activities of the flagship journal – Indian Journal of Arbitration Law (IJAL). She is also enrolled at NLU Jodhpur as a Doctoral



Scholar since July 2016, and is currently working on completing her PhD dissertation in the area of celebrity personality rights and looking at defining the contours for a Right of Publicity regime in India. She has a teaching experience of over six years; having earlier also taught at the ITM University, Gurgaon (Now, North Cap University, Gurugram). She regularly teaches courses in Law of IPR in International Trade and International Commercial Arbitration and Law of Arbitration and ADR. She is an alumnus of the Hidayatullah National Law University, Raipur [Class of 2012, BALLB Hons], India and secured 15 gold medals for stellar academic performance during undergraduate studies. She then graduated from the Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore, in June 2013 with specialized Masters in International and Comparative Law. At NUS, she completed the directed research dissertation titled “The Taking of Evidence in International Arbitration: A New Legal Regime“, supervised by Prof. Gary F. Bell. She has also successfully completed the WIPO Singapore Summer School organized jointly by WIPO, IPA Singapore and IPOS in June 2013; and has worked under the tutelage of Prof. Irene Calboli as her summer research assistant on a project on sustainable development and economic value of Geographical Indications from May to July 2013. Recently, in a personal capacity, she has completed working on a project from the NUS Centre for Law and Business, on the UNCITRAL Model Arbitration Law adoption in Asia, as the India rapporteur with Mr. Harisankar K S. The same has now been published in a conference volume book by Cambridge University Publications. She continues to write in the areas of domestic and international arbitration, and nurtures a special interest in Intellectual Property Law; and also speaks as a guest faculty at CII and CREDAI Arbitration workshops and conferences, and conducts training workshops for police personnel on IP Infringement and piracy; as well as for HEIs on Prevention of Sexual Harassment at Workplace and the UGC Regulations on Prevention of Sexual Harassment at HEIs.

## **9. THE STUDENT RESEARCH ASSOCIATES (2022-23)**

### **1. ROMIT JAIN**

Romit Jain is penultimate year law student at Dharmashastra National Law University, Jabalpur. He is fond of Investment and allied laws. He has been working as a Co-founder at Law Express, legal-tech platform. He had been working as legal head at CAonDuty which aims to be one of the largest financial services platform in the country. He is enthusiastic about





Corporate and Commercial Laws. He had interned at multiple law firms gaining industrial experience required. He has various publications to his name. You can find him researching on various facets of law regularly.

## **2. SAGAR RAI**

Sagar Rai is a keen enthusiast of the global economic transactions and the policy formation between signatory nations. He found CITIL as a platform which may enhance his research skills and knowledge in the field of trade and investment laws. Furthermore the arena of international trade and investment laws aims to foster complex legal problems arising out from the treaties and pacts between signatory nations. Therefore publishing working papers on these issues would be an immense learning experience for him.

## **3. SHAAN JAIN**

Shaan Jain is 4th year law student at Dharmashastra National Law University, Jabalpur. He is fond of Investment and Trade laws. He has developed the said interest due to being engaged in investing in various financial instruments. He has experience of various national as well as international moots and mediation competition. He is enthusiastic in expanding his knowledge through extensive research on different facet of law.

## **4. MANYA JAIN**

Manya Jain is a third year student at Dharmashastra National Law University, Jabalpur where she is pursuing BA.LLB. (Hons). As a novice in the legal sphere, she is perpetually curious about the dynamic ambit of the field. She has worked in subject areas relating to Competition law and garnered elementary knowledge in the field of International Trade and Commerce. With an advancing interest in the IPR domain, it led her to ponder upon the variations and inter-connectivity of these arenas. As a law student, she has been engaging in learning about ADR mechanisms since the inception of her journey and hopes to hone her skills in dispute resolution.



## **5. MRINAL SHUKLA**

Mrinal Shukla is a 3rd Year Law Student at Dharmashastra National Law University, Jabalpur and Student Research Associate at CITIL, is an accomplished researcher who takes delight in offering the best. He is driven by self-confidence and motivation. He is committed, active, and logically consistent given the workload he is under. He appreciates the significance of international law and thinks it helps nations' diplomatic ties.

## **6. ANUSHMITA DUTTA**

Anushmita Dutta is a third-year student of B.A. LLB. (Hons.) at Dharmashastra National Law University, Jabalpur. She has a few publications under her name in the fields of criminal law, gender justice, securities law, etc., among others. Moreover, she tends to get thrilled when it comes to mootings, negotiation and mediation, which perhaps explains why she works herself to a figurative death as an executive member of the Moot Court Committee of the University. Although, as a student in her fifth semester, with mid-law-school-crisis knocking at her door, Anushmita believes she still has a lot to learn and experience in the field of regulatory regimes with respect to trade and investment laws. Yet, her enthusiasm and intrigue for corporate laws keep her up and coming.

## **7. VIRAJ LAHANE**

Viraj Lahane is a 2nd year law student who is an enthusiast when it comes to researching. Viraj since his school days has been inclined towards the field of trade and investment and with this centre he got an opportunity to explore this area more. His aim as a research associate is to produce quality research works in this field which will help to develop a culture of trade and investment law among his peers.

## **8. HEMANT TEWARI**

Hemant is a second-year learner at DNLU, Jabalpur. He has a keen interest in the niche law field of corporate and financial regulatory affairs. The fulcrum of his interest would be the



regulatory space of SEBI, RBI, IRDAI, IBBI, PFRDA, and their Appellate Tribunals or Courts. Hemant is constantly working towards honing his skills in this specific legal arena, learning not only about the legal aspect of financial regulations but even delving into the financial markets by investing in the stock markets and completing specific credit courses on securities, investments, and the banking industry. He is focusing on work related to advising and traditional litigation in finance covering inter alia foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs), mutual funds, alternative investment funds (AIFs), venture capital funds, and portfolio managers.

## **9. HARSHIT PATHAK**

My name is Harshit Pathak. He is a second-year law student at Dharmashastra National Law University Jabalpur. His area of interest includes International law and Intellectual Property Rights. He is currently part of the Centre for Studies in International Trade and Investment Laws as a Research Associate. He is constantly exploring different facets of international law and IPR law.

## **10. SHLOK RAI**

Shlok Rai is a second-year student at Dharmashastra National Law University in Jabalpur, where he is pursuing his B.A.LL.B. (Hons.). He is passionate about international law and international relations. Shlok is continuously striving to improve his knowledge of international law and the contemporary challenges associated with the same. He also enjoys delving into geopolitics with the backdrop of trade such as the multiple FTAs India is a part of.

## **10. CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECTS/ACTIVITIES**

The Centre is currently working on two research projects in collaboration with:

- a) Centre for Air and Space Law, Maharashtra National Law University, Mumbai-A Research and Academic Collaboration create Handbook on “Indian Treaty Law” in consultation with many stakeholders including the Ministry of External Affairs, Govt of India. (In Process)
- b) Prof. Bryan Mercurio, *Simon F.S. Li Professor of Law at the Chinese University of Hong Kong*, on “Vaccine Research and Distribution” (In Process).



*The Research Centre is looking forward to more meaningful collaborations with Academics, Research Scholars, Research Centres across India and the globe, Institutions, Governmental and Non-governmental Organizations.*

*For any queries/Collaborations:*

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